



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 28, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

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- **2008 Fall In-Service Conferences**
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NOMINATE A TEACHER FOR IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR (GO TO TOP)

The deadline to submit nominations for the Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education is just around the corner. All materials must be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to the Department by **September 30, 2008**.

The Idaho Teacher of the Year Program, which began in 1959, is one of the most prestigious honors in the state for teachers. The program focuses public attention on excellence in teaching that has a real impact on the students of Idaho. The Idaho Teacher of the Year is chosen from among the districts' nominees by a selection committee representing the state education leaders and lawmakers. Each school district and charter school may nominate one teacher. School districts should submit the nominations to the State Department of Education before the end of the school year. The Idaho Teacher of the Year also becomes a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers that is sponsored by Scholastic Inc.

Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/ to download application materials. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.

2008 FALL IN-SERVICE CONFERENCES (GO TO TOP)

A list of the 2008 Fall In-Service Conference dates and locations has been posted on the State Department of Education Web site. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on "Meetings and Events" to view the listing.

The conference information provided in this listing is based on information that has been submitted to the State Department of Education by each organization. If you have a fall conference that you would like listed, please e-mail the information about the conference to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov. Please include the title of



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the conference, sponsoring organization, location, dates, registration information and contact information in your e-mail.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- The State Department of Education offices will be closed on Monday, September 1, 2008 in observance of Labor Day.
- Superintendent Luna will participate in the 2008 Governor's Cup in Coeur d'Alene on Thursday, September 4 and Friday, September 5, 2008

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Check out new Meetings and Events page** – The State Department of Education has created a new “Meetings and Events” Web page, which is a one-stop shop where you can learn about upcoming meetings, trainings, workshops and conferences sponsored by the State Department of Education and register for the events online. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on “Meetings and Events” to check it out.
- **Secretary of State offers opportunity for 17-year-old students** – In Idaho, if a student is 17 years old and a U.S. citizen, they can serve as a poll worker on November 4, 2008. Idaho Code, Section 34-303 states, “A student may be appointed, notwithstanding lack eligibility to vote, if the student possesses the following qualifications: (1) Is at least seventeen (17) years of age at the time of the election to which he or she is serving as a member of an election board; (2) Is a citizen of the United States.” The Secretary of State's office encourages students, government teachers and school principals to take advantage of this opportunity to serve in an actual election. Please visit <http://www.idahovotes.gov/Clerk.htm> to find out how you can contact your local county clerk and ask for more information. Student poll workers are paid for their time.
- **Constitution Day is September 17** – Constitution Day is September 17. Federal and state law requires all local education agencies that receive federal funds, including NCLB and IDEA, to teach about the U.S. Constitution on September 17 of each year. While neither the U.S. Department of Education nor the Idaho State Department of Education endorses any particular program or Web site, the State Department of Education has put together a list of informational resources that may provide useful information for schools developing Constitution Day programs. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov/socialstudies/ to download the *Constitution Day* brochure suggested resources.
- **U.S. Senate Youth Program** – The State Department of Education requests your assistance in administering the 2009 United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The cooperation of high school principals is crucial to assure that all qualified Idaho students have the opportunity to participate in this unique scholarship program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, D.C. with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school will be receiving a packet of information by



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September 5, 2008 explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. State-level deadline for submission of materials is **October 31, 2008**. Thank you again for your assistance in providing this unique opportunity for your high school students. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.

- **Idaho Math Initiative PSAs** – Public Service Announcements (PSA) for the Idaho Math Initiative hit television and radio stations across Idaho this week. The goal of the Idaho Math Initiative is to develop a Math Initiative that will focus on improving math education in all grades to ensure every student is prepared for higher levels of math in the middle grades, high school, post-secondary, and work-force setting. The PSAs were created to promote awareness about the Idaho Math Initiative and the importance of math education. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on the “Idaho Math Initiative” link to view the PSAs or to learn more about the Idaho Math Initiative.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Register for School Improvement Workshops** – Two workshop opportunities and a webinar are available for Title I schools and districts that have been identified for school improvement Alert, Year 1, Year 2, Corrective Action, or Restructuring based on the Spring 2008 ISAT scores. You are eligible for this technical assistance even if you made AYP in Spring 2008 and are now in a Year I or beyond holding pattern (*). Please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/sessionregistration.htm> to register for the School Improvement Workshop General Session, School Improvement Plan Writing Support Sessions or the CIP Tool Support Webinars – or register to attend all three. There is a maximum of three (3) participants per identified school or district office, per technical assistance offering. Please contact Katherine Weatherspoon at the (208) 426-4852 with event registration questions, and contact Lisa Kinnaman at (208) 426-2154 with questions regarding Title I School Improvement support.
- **DMA Trainings** – The State Department of Education has scheduled Direct Math Assessment (DMA) trainings this fall for school district and school building testing coordinators and teachers. There is no additional charge for your district to attend the trainings. Here is the schedule of trainings:
 - Region I: Post Falls-Thursdays, Sept. 18th 9:00am-12:00pm
 - Region II: Lewiston-Friday, Sept. 19th 9:00am-12:00pm
 - Region III: Boise- Tuesday, Sept. 23rd 9:00am-12:00pm or 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - Boise-Wednesday, Sept. 24th 9:00am-12:00pm or 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - Region IV: Twin Falls-Friday, Sept. 26th 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - Region V: Pocatello-Tuesday, Sept. 30th 1:00pm-4:00pm
 - Region VI: Idaho Falls-Wednesday, Oct. 1st 9:00am-12:00pm

For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/> and download the registration form. Please e-mail or fax your application to Sarah Bluemont at sbluemont@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 334-2228.

- **Register for the IBEDS/HQT workshops** – Register now for the IBEDS/HQT Training Workshops. School administrators are encouraged to attend. The morning session will cover the important basics of IBEDS and certificated staff credentialing related to funding as well as state and federal reporting. The afternoon session will be targeted towards use of the IBEDS Program. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/ibeds_form/default.asp to register for the workshops. If you have questions, please contact LaRae Ashby at (208) 332-6845 or LBashby@sde.idaho.gov.



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- **Federal Program Directors' Meeting** – The annual Federal Program Directors' Meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2008 at the DoubleTree Hotel Riverside in Boise. You can register online at www.sde.idaho.gov, click on the link under "Latest News." A block of rooms has been reserved for September 14 and 15 for participants. Please contact the hotel to make the reservations at (208) 343-1871. Reserve your room by **September 1, 2008**. More information can be found on our Web site. If you have questions, please contact the NCLB Team administrative assistants: Claudia Striegel at (208) 332-6906, cstriegel@sde.idaho.gov or Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942, tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov.
- **FREE School Review Process Guide** – The Center for Comprehensive School Reform and Improvement is a federally funded organization charged with providing support and technical assistance to schools and districts in needs improvement status. They have recently developed a School Review Process Guide designed to walk schools and districts through a meaningful and useful school improvement planning process. The guide includes processes and implementation tools in these four areas: 1. Developing School Leadership Teams, 2. Useful Data Collection, 3. Analysis & Interpretation, 4. School Improvement Planning & Implementation. This guide and included tools are FREE of charge. An informational teleconference will be held **September 10, 2008** at 2 p.m. (4 p.m. Eastern). If you are interested in learning more about the guide or signing up for one of the teleconference sessions, please contact Carolyn A. Brown, PhD, Senior Research Associate at carolyn.brown@learningpt.org.
- **2008 Idaho Student Mock Election** – Secretary of State Ben Ysursa invites your high school to participate in the 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election. This online voting exercise has been developed in cooperation with the State Department of Education to instill an appreciation and importance of voting in Idaho's young people. The goal of the program is to provide an active voting experience for high school students across the state. Any high school government class is welcome to participate by using school computers during the mock election. The 2008 Idaho Student Mock Election will be available for two days only: Thursday, October 23 and Friday, October 24. For more details, please visit <http://www.sos.idaho.gov/isme/ISMEIndex.jsp>. To participate, please e-mail a list of interested teachers and their school email addresses to isme@sos.idaho.gov or contact the SOS directly at (208) 334-2852.
- **Wind for Schools project** – Idaho has been selected as one of six states participating in *Wind for Schools*, a unique educational project in collaboration with Boise State University, the U.S. Department of Energy and Idaho's wind energy industry. This project is designed to educate our students about wind energy and prepare them for future jobs in this industry. Wind is the fastest-growing energy source both worldwide and in the US. The goal is to install wind turbines at four rural schools per year for the next three years. If your school is interested in participating in this project, please visit <http://coen.boisestate.edu/WindEnergy/WfS/index.asp>, complete the application and submit it to Todd Haynes at Boise State University at toddhaynes@boisestate.edu.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Aug. 28, 2008** – The deadline to apply for the Fresh Fruits and Vegetables program (FFVP). FFVP has been expanded to all 50 states and Guam. At this time, the State Department of Education is accepting applications from National School Lunch Program sponsors for sites that want to be considered for this program. To apply, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp. If you have further questions about the program, please contact Lynda Westphal



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in Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6825 or LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov. Here are some of the requirements:

- Only **elementary** schools in the state with more than 50% free and reduced students can participate in this program;
- More than 25 schools in Idaho can be selected;
- The school site must make **free FRESH fruits and vegetables** available to students in one or more areas designated by the school in addition to the National School Lunch Program (dried fruit is not allowed anymore).
- **Aug. 29, 2008** – The deadline to submit materials to take part in the Certification Renewal Pilot Project. The State Department of Education is piloting a simplified process for recertification this fall. After hearing feedback about how cumbersome this process has become, the Department is piloting a procedure that will only require individuals to submit a Renewal Application and a check for the recertification fee at the time of renewal. For accountability purposes, the Department will randomly select a minimum of 10 percent of Renewal Applications to audit. If audited, the individual will have up to 60 days to submit proof of professional development to the State Department of Education. All teachers and administrators are eligible to take part in the pilot project this fall if they are required to recertify in the Fall 2008. To participate, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacherCertification/default.asp>.
- **Aug. 29, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for Safe Routes to School funding to the Idaho Transportation Department. For more information, visit www.itd.idaho.gov and click on “Safe Routes to School.”
- **Sept. 1, 2008** – The deadline for school districts to adopt a policy allowing students to use epinephrine auto-injectors for severe allergic reactions. State Department of Education staff discussed this new requirement passed by the Idaho Legislature in 2008 on the Post-Legislative Tour. This is in the same section of law as the existing requirement that boards allow the use of inhalers for students with asthma or other life-threatening respiratory illnesses. Students are to be allowed to carry and self-administer these drugs on school grounds, though the district may require that a duplicate copy of the prescription be kept on file with the school nurse, or, in the absence of a school nurse, with the school’s administrator. For more information on Senate Bill 1443, please visit <http://www3.state.id.us/oasis/S1443.html>.
- **Sept. 25, 2008** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to this date. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit the FICA Match Report for the 2007-2008 school year. This covers July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The cover letter and the report form are available online at www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/statistics_finance.htm. Completed reports should be faxed to Ken Lang at (208) 334-2228. If you wish to e-mail the report, send it to KPLang@sde.idaho.gov, but please remember to include the



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required signature. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Lang at (208) 332-6858 or KPLang@sde.idaho.gov.

- **Sept. 30, 2008** – The deadline to submit nominations for Idaho Teacher of the Year to the State Department of Education. Applications for the 2009 Idaho Teacher of the Year are now available on the State Department of Education's Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov/TeacheroftheYear. Please note that the Idaho Teacher of the Year application is the same as the application for the National Teacher of the Year.
- **Oct. 15, 2008** – The deadline for school districts to submit the Annual Title I-A Comparability Report. This is an annual requirement for all Districts. The forms can be found at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/#annual_reports and must be submitted as email attachments and sent to Susan Hansen at SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov. Minor changes have been made to the forms; if there are questions please contact Susan at (208) 332-6900.
- **Nov. 3, 2008** – The deadline to submit applications for the third annual BubbleWrap® Competition for Young Inventors, sponsored by the Sealed Air Corporation and The National Museum of Education. The contest is open to students in grades 5-8. This innovative contest incorporates national and state academic standards in the fields of engineering design, problem-solving, entrepreneurship and all of the core curricular subjects. Visit www.nmoe.org for more details about the competition. Applications may be received via hard copy mail, email or FAX. If you have further questions, please contact the National Museum of Education at info@nmoe.org or (330) 376-8300.
- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.